The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VII SUMMER 1950 NUMBER 10

McKITTRICASTING

Message from the President of the Massachusetts Medical Society

Greetings to the members of Hampden District from their many friends at 8 The Fenway.

Ours continues to be a rapidly changing world. Our defensive campaign in Korea with its many implications gives added impetus for the prompt development of a sound program for emergency medical defense in every community—plans for which are fortunately already well under way in our state.

The recent meeting of the House of Delegates in San Francisco produced nothing spectacular to catch the public's eye—or that of the profession for that matter. There was rather increasing evidence of the soundness of the many decisions of the Board of Trustees in the development of our education campaign. How important a factor this has been in the recent overwhelming defeat in the House of Mr. Ewing and the President's Reorganization Plan to create a department of Health, Education, and Welfare cannot be known but should not be underestimated.

In our new President, Dr. Elmer Henderson, we have a man of dignity, with devotion to the public welfare and to his profession, who will fight long and hard for those things he believes to be right.

The President-elect, Dr. John Cline of San Francisco, is a young man—aggressive, able, a clear thinker, and is one in whom we as a profession may well be proud. He has been well known to many of us here in Boston since his medical and intern days. He will be an excellent successor to Dr. Henderson.

The moving vans have come and gone on The Fenway. Number 22 is now the property of the Massachusetts Medical Society and is in the process of being altered to fit our needs. The Society is to be congratulated and the Committee on Headquarters duly thanked for their successful efforts in obtaining for us a building so ideally located and suited to our needs.

All in all, this bids fair to be an important and active year. We shall need your help.

Leland S. McKittrick, M.D.
Pesident.

Editor's Note: At long last John Birnie's dream for a suitable headquarters building has come true. Thanks also to his efforts, a good sized fund facilt-itated the fruition.

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

This Issue 500 Copies

OFFICERS OF THE HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

President—Arthur Riordan
Vice-President—Fred F. Celce
Secretary-Treasurer—Allen G. Rice

EDITORIAL BOARD

Edward P. Bagg, *Editor-in-Chief*
Eoline Dubois Jerome Whitney

THE FAMILY DOCTOR— HOW GOOD?

A disturbing article in elaboration of the theme as stated in our lead was contributed by Dr. Caleb Smith to the August issue of the "Atlantic Monthly". He is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Rochester and Surgeon in Chief in the Bradford, Pennsylvania Hospital, thus has small town experience as well as contact with University teaching clinics.

The article is troublesome because of so much truth that underlies the observations, particularly in view of the current campaign to convince the world that American Medicine is beyond compare. Those of us who can stand further disturbing thoughts in these days of unrest are urged to look into the mirror and to discover how close the image comes to local reality. Is it true that 80% of General Practitioners hereabout never attend staff meetings or keep clinical records worthy of the name? Do only two out of ten Hampden Fellows make use of the excellent post-graduate instruction that is furnished in Massachusetts? Do most of our men rely instead upon instruction from the detail men of our pharmaceutical houses? Do they purvey symptomatic treatment without going to the trouble of basing the same on verified diagnoses?

When such authentic smoke signals can darken our horizons, how long can our arguments be maintained for the continuance without change of medicine as practiced today? Fortunately real progress has been made in the Hampden District, particularly in making first class pathological service available to the several centers in the Hampden District, in Hampshire and in Franklin, too. Fellows should take advantage of the September Assembly to be offered by the Committee on Post-Graduate Education at the University of Massachusetts.

Penal Plague Spots

The example of far sighted public service set by Dr. A. Warren Stearns of Billerica, as reported recently by local newspapers, should stir many of his fellow citizens from complacency to cheers if not emulation. For too long far too many of us have condemned the sad state of our county penal institutions, but have shrugged off the problem with the unanswered query, "What can I do about it?"

Quite characteristic it is of this well-rounded citizen to provide a very definite and practical answer instead of going into retirement way down upon the Shawsheen River. He has chosen to run for the office of Sheriff of Middlesex County on the platform of correcting the house

(Continued On Page 5)

Margaret M. O'Brien, R. N. Telephone 2-5960
O'Brien Sick Room Supplies
(Medical and Surgical)
Authorized Camp Service
6 Maple Street ..... Springfield, Mass.

Address Correspondence to Secretary:
Dr. W. A. R. Chapin
121 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Mass.
Telephone 2-7213

Dentists & Surgeons Supply Co.
340 Bridge Street
Springfield Massachusetts

GEORGE DALLAS HENDERSON

1874-1950

AUE ATQUE VALE

What a privilege it would have been to stand there on the far bank of the River Styx on that fourteenth day of June just past, peering into the gloom, watching for Charon's immortal ferry to emerge from the murk on the chance that the new-born shade of George Dallas Henderson might be starting on the long journey to the Elysian Fields. Joe Carrol, Ed Hussey and John Dillon surely would be in the foremost row, once the Avernal grapevine had spread the news. But J. C. Hubbard, F. Benoni Sweet and Everett Bates would not be far behind. S. A. might be there by this time too,—who knows?

When the familiar face did appear, so little changed by that small moustache, the shouts and glad acclaim that broke the Stygian silence must have dispelled any uncertainties that might have lingered in his alerted and questioning soul.

"Atta-boy Georgie! Welcome to our City!" "Glad you weren't held up by any outstanding obligations." "What's that under your robe?—Throw it in the river, George, you won't need a typewriter here; we'll take you to meet your former correspondents face to face. They'll probably turn the tables on you and ask for all the details of the recent advances in medicine. You can prove to Freddie Shattuck that pneumonia no longer leads the pack as in his day." "May the Gods still be with you!"

Doubtless it would be of no avail to ask for permission to follow the happy throng on the tour of Elysium. Cerberus, in spite of his triple dose of sedatives, would prevent it right at the start. Only the elect may enter there. But we can rest assured that Harvey Cushing warmly grasped his hand and William Osler and Billy Welsh listened attentively to his detailed answers. And when, one after another, he caught sight of Pasteur, Virchow, Lannec, Ambrose Paré and Galen the empircist, who could doubt that his enthusiasm nearly went out of control?

The climax must have come in a further reach of that bright country when he entered the presence of Father Hippocrates himself. We can be sure that those calm, wise eyes lighted up with pleasure, and the venerable arm went around George's shoulders in a warm embrace.

"Thrice welcome, my son,"—we can almost hear the words,—"You have lived the life of a true physician. Your influence by precept and example has done more than most of your fellows to advance the standing of medicine in your territory. You have been eager always to learn and to stimulate others to do likewise. The Art is indeed long. If at times your tongue waxed sharp, as often as not there was ample justification. To those who understood you best, it was clear that you had dedicated your life to the practise of medicine and the welfare of your patients; and that you accomplished your ends 'with honor and uprightness.' Few men have left a better record."

Yes, all now is well with George Dallas Henderson, M.D., our esteemed colleague, beloved physician to so many. But for us who must face the task of taking up the work where he left it, there is a vast and humbling sense of inadequacy and overwhelming loss. In honor to our good friend who so richly earned his accolade, we must spur our faltering efforts to give in our turn the very best that is in us.

As for me, so for us all; we still can 'let George do it'—by example.

S Q. Lapius

COMPLIMENT

Curran-Jones

WEST SPRINGFIELD

Distaff Doings

(Women's Auxiliary News)

The Hampden District was well represented at the Second Annual meeting of the Womens' Auxiliary to the Massachusetts Medical Society on May 16, 1950 at the Hotel Statler in Boston. The president Mrs. James A. Seaman, Vice president Mrs. Martin Gaynor, and the Secretary Mrs. James Visconti were among the delegates who attended. Others present were Mrs. John Gilchrist, Mrs. Thomas Reilly, Mrs. W. J. Kisiel, Mrs. Mario Cariani, and Mrs. Joseph Baker.

Dr. Leland S. McKittrick, incoming president of the Masachusetts Medical Society, addressed the group. He stressed the unique position of the doctor's wife in having both a lay and a medical point of view and he urged everyone to conduct a positive and productive program in the subject of socialized medicine. Mrs. H. F. Root, new President of the State Auxiliary, clarified for the members their duties. She said: "It is not our function to go our independent ways and pursue our own goals,—ours is the privelege of helping to carry out the program outlined by the American Medical Association and our own State Society." Mrs. Root stressed the importance of keeping informed on the position of the Medical Society on legislative affairs, and of making every effort to get our views before groups of all kinds.

Although the Hampden District Auxiliary is one of the newest in the State, it is about the second largest with a membership now totaling 225.

Plans For The 1950-51 Season

A joint dinner meeting with the Hampden County Medical Society is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24 as the opening event of the 1950-51 season. There are rumors about that there will be guests from the Massachusetts Medical Society and the State Auxiliary—as well as from the American Medical Association. In November an Institute will be conducted with other Auxiliaries in Western Massachusetts participating. A tea is to be held on December 12, 1950 at the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts. A pannel discussion with some well informed participants has been planned for an evening meeting the second Tuesday in February. The final meeting of the year will be the annual luncheon on the second Tuesday in April; some special entertainment is planned to celebrate this first anniversary. The Board has alternated afternoon and evening meetings so that those who could not attend all the meetings that were held at one set time will at least be able to attend those scheduled for their convenience—and thus take an active part in the work of the organization.

Message

from the President of the Massachusetts Medical Society

—BY THE WAY—

There are two new projects at the Girls' Trade School which merit our enthusiastic support.

Last year the Attendant Nursing course, initiated by the Wesson Memorial Hospital, and carried on during the war, was transferred to the Trade School. The course is primarily to train women in bedside care of the sick in the home. There are no frills about the instruction, and no time lost in teaching subjects unrelated to nursing, three months at the school

COMPLIMENTS
T. P. Sampson
Springfield

Springfield Medical Supply Co.
New and Used Equipment
173 Chestnut Street
Springfield . . Massachusetts

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty One

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PERIODIC REGISTRATION OF PHSICIANS AND FOR REPORTING CHANGE OF OFFICE ADDRESSES FOR PHYSICIANS

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend in part to defeat its purpose which is to make available immediately and at periodic future intervals an accurate record of physicians registered for the unlimited practice of medicine in the commonwealth, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting section 2B:

Every physician registered for the unlimited practice of medicine in the commonwealth, shall re-register with the board as hereinafter provided. Immediately after the effective date of this law the board shall mail to each registered physician, at this address as listed in the records of the board, an application in such form as the board may determine for immediate renewal of certificate of registration; **provided,** that such application shall not be mailed to, nor such immediate renewal of certification required of, any physician who has registered within six months prior to the effective date of this law. Such application shall be completed and returned to the board, together with the renewal fee of $4.00, not later than sixty days from the date it was mailed by the board. Thereupon the board shall issue a renewal certificate of registration in such form as it may determine, effective until December thirty-one, 1952. Any physician failing to submit application in accordance with this foregoing provision shall be immediately notified by the board by registered mail that such application is overdue; and if failing within sixty days after such notice to submit such application shall be cited to appear before the board to show cause why his registration shall not be suspended or revoked. All certificates of registration shall expire on December thirty-one 1952; and on the same day of each second year thereafter; **provided,** that certificates issued within six months prior to any such date of expiration shall not expire until the stated date of expiration of the second year following. Not later than November one, 1952, and of November one of each second year thereafter, the board shall mail to every registered physician whose certificate is due for renewal an application, in such form as the board may determine, for renewal of certificate of registration. Such application shall be completed and returned to the board, together with renewal fee of $4.00, not later than January one of the following year. Thereupon the board shall issue a renewal certificate of registration, in such form as it may determine, effective for two years from said January one. Any physician failing to submit application in accordance with this forgoing provision shall be immediately notified by the board by registered mail that said application is overdue; and if failing within sixty days after such notice to submit such application, shall be cited to appear before the board to show cause why his registration shall not be suspended or revoked. Every registered physician, upon changing an office address shall, within the next thirty days, notify the board of the change. Within five months from the effective date of this law, the board shall publish and shall mail to each registered physician two complete lists of the names and office addresses of all registered physicians; one arranged alphabetically by their names, the other by municipalities where their offices are located. Thereafter, the board shall publish similar lists biennially and mail these to each registered physician not later than May one, 1953, and not later than May one of each second year thereafter.

where cooking and other subjects relating to home care are taught followed by twelve months in a hospital to learn the professional know-how of nursing. The students are then ready for their state examination and the degree of L.A. (licensed attendant). With the increasing shortage of registered nurses, most of whom are unwilling to take cases outside of a hospital, this short course will provide trained nurses for home care of the sick at prices within the average pocketbook. The only fly in the ointment will be the hospitals' unwillingness to spare these girls after they have completed training, and the preference of the girls themselves for the well ordered life of the hospital. This short cut to entering the nursing profession with a degree, was an emergency measure of the war and is proving a practical solution in relieving the nursing shortage.

The other project is the training of medical office assistants. Started this year, it consists of teaching how to meet patients for examinations, and performing minor laboratory tests as urinary sugar, albumin, and blood sugar. Mrs. Ells the principal, is anxious for the girls to have practical training while taking the course, and any part time jobs available in a doctor's office at whatever he wishes to pay, will be considered as an excellent chance for experience. If the regular office nurse is away, it is a great help to know where a substitute may be found at short notice. These girls are all high school graduates and Mrs. Ells welcomes suggestions from the doctors as to the subjects which will make the course most useful. Why not make a reservation for luncheon this fall (the food is very good), and visit this class at work?

Of great interest to all general practi-

(Continued On Page 6, Column 2)

Dear Hippocrat:

The Memorial Committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society was appointed to gather information regarding our deceased members who gave their lives in World War II. I would like to know some of the facts concerning their service and their families, namely,

Date and branch of service.

Date, place and cause of death.

Surviving members of family; if married.

Children, with age, sex, and education to date.

This information is confidential and will probably form a basis for study with regard to some form of recognition of our war heroes by the Society.

Cooperation of all Fellows and their friends will be greatly appreciated.

Ralph H. Wells, M. D.
Chairman Memorial Committtt
1430 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, Massachusetts

PENAL PLAGUE SPOTS

(Continued From Page 2)

of correction itself with modern case work and a rehabilitation program in accord with approved psychiatric practise. His large experience as a former Commissioner of Correction of Massachusetts and Dean of Tufts Medical School, not forgetting distinguished service with the U. S. Navy in both World Wars, should stand him in good stead. The fact that he is running as a Republican is sufficient proof of his courage.

More power and a silver star to Sheriff Stearns, and may he have many emulators in other countries everywhere!

Surgical Supply Company
22 Railroad Street Holyoke

VI-SYNERAL
Trade Mark Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. Brand of
VITAMINS and MINERALS

Annual Registration of Physicians

A joint meeting of the Committee on Medical Economics and the Sub Committee on National Legislation and others was held at the Harvard Club, Boston, on Wednesday, June 21, 1950.

The first business to come before the meeting was consideration of a model bill calling for biennial registration of physcians in Massachusetts.

Following a general discussion during which it was pointed out that no one knew the number or location of all the physicians in Masschusetts and that intelligent planning for civil defense would require such information, it was agreed:

1. That there should be an annual registration of physicians in Massachusetts by the Board of Registration in Medicine.

2. That the fee for such registration should not exceed the fee paid by dentists and nurses for similar registration.

3. That the Board of Registration in Medicine should notify physicians annually of their responsibility to register by sending a bill for the fee.

4. That a penalty for failure to register should be established.

5. That a common registration date be established for all physicians.

The proposed bill as per enclosure merits study. Reactions should be communicated to your Councilors who will vote upon the proposition at the October meeting.

HOSPITAL AFFILIATIONS

Consideration has been given by the Committee on Medical Economics as to the feasibility of determining the number, name, and location of practicing physicians in Massachusetts who do not have hospital privileges.

Following discussion, it was agreed

1. That the Committee on Hospital and Professional Relations of the Massachusetts Medical Society in conjunction with the Council on Administrative Practice of the Massachusetts Hospital Association be asked to secure a list of staff members from the general and special hospitals in the Commonwealth.

2. That the list so compiled be checked against the list of Blue Shield Participating Physicians and that a tabulation of physicians ostensibly without hospital connections be prepared.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be devoted to a discussion of the Health insurance Plan of Greater New York as part of the board examination of the concept of group practice and diagnostic clinics.

BY THE WAY

(Continued From Page 5)

tioners is the election of Dr. Norman Welch as President of the Blue Shield, in place of Dr. McCann who has resigned. It is to be hoped that a medical program will be evolved to correct the one sidedness of Blue Shield benefits in relation to medical fees.

The Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, after three years of operation, as reported in the June 17th issue of J. A. M. A. makes most interesting reading. Under this comprehensive plan of complete coverage, 91% of all medical services are rendered outside the hospitals which indicates how limited any plan is that pays only for hospitalization. At the end of three years the plan has paid its way, the doctors are satisfied, the patient doctor relationship is maintained, and there is no interference from Washington. It's the best answer so far to Oscar Ewing.

COMPLIMENTS

Ernest A. Byron

SPRINGFIELD

Do you want the Hippocrat continued? .....

Do you want a larger and more expensive sheet with more advertising? .....

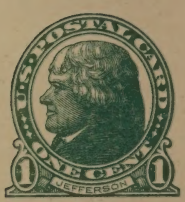
Do you want your copy sent to your office or home? If home (because of auxiliary) give address:

.....

.....

Have you any suggestions?

signature: .....



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. W. A. R. Chapin

121 Chestnut Street

Springfield, 3, Massachusetts

PROGRAM OF WESTERN CHAPTER, MASSACHUSETTS HEART ASSOCIATION

Under the long range program:

1. Hospital beds for rheumatic fever patients at the Municipal Hospital, for study and treatment. The contemplated plans seem favorable for their care.

2. Improving teaching facilities for the medical profession constantly, and inauguration of the program for teaching of lay groups about heart disease in general.

Short term plan:

1. The continuation of clinical meetings of Springfield hospitals and the addition of a clinical meeting in one of the out of town hospitals each year.

2. Maintenance and expansion of the heart clinic at the Springfield Hospital.

3. Providing penicillin for heart clinic or other free heart patients when their physician states that they are unable to pay.

4. Formation of a speakers bureau composed of interested physicians who will, on request, address lay groups or nurses.

5. Employment of a social worker whose duties will be contact and follow-up of heart disease patients seen in the clinic.

6. Consultation with the Health Department and with the Springfield Health Council in order that we may be of mutual assistance.

7. Publication of papers read at the several clinical meetings for reference of interested physicians.

Professional Bldg. Pharmacy

Inc.

18 Maple Street **Springfield**

Absorbine Jr.

ATTENTION

This issue of the Hippocrat will have as an enclosure a postal card addressed to the Business Manager which will be self-explanatory. It is hoped that the membership will sign and return this card after giving it some consideration.

For nearly ten years this paper has been in existence. It was instituted as a sort of gossip sheet not devoted to scientific matters hence not duplicating any of the regular magazines which we all read. It was felt from the first that the national, the state, and the county societies are all really grounded on the last. If our local society is not strong and well informed as to what effects them the whole structure suffers. Four counties in Massachusetts out of 18 have some sort of local periodical.

The expense of this sheet has been minimum and it has been a policy of the Board to have advertisements incidental only to the sheet. Up to now it has carried about half of the expense.

The Editorial Board met with the Executive Committee this summer and it was decided that we should renew our efforts.

Contributions made by our members of a social, political and economic nature. It was also felt that better paper should be used. Incidentally, the Board has frequently reminded the members that their contributions of their gripes and ambitions would be welcome for use in the Hippocrat.

We now have a Women's Auxiliary which have shown more real interest collectively than the County Society. They have requested that we give them space in our sheet for their publicity and notices, four times a year, and the Board welcomes their enthusiasm and their contribution. Where the society member would prefer that the Hippocrat would go to his home rather than his office, he should designate that on the enclosed card.

The Editors want to stress again that the Hippocrat has never been a closed corporation and welcome, yet solicit, your individual offers of help if you have the

(Continued On Page 8)

—VACATION AND VOCATION—

The vacating of one's usual routine is not a rest, but a change.

With the physician, it usually means more physical activity and a new mental outlook. We have a chance to consider ourselves, instead of thinking of others.

Most inventories find a rather satisfactory balance.

We have work that is worth while and in which we are interested. It provides us with the comforts that a wife and children desire.

We are not obsessed with a desire for wealth, or fame. Perhaps, we are a little lazy, or maybe they are not the things to whet our ambition.

Somehow, we are not quite satisfied and we look around at others hoping to find the answer.

One man pursues a different avocation, or hobby in succession. He is seeking, but his constant change confesses he has not found the answer, unless, it is change.

Shall it be philanthropy? A doctor's life fits him well for that.

Social agencies clamor for leaders with medical background, but can we work well in harness?

The arts are avenues to inner satisfaction and many are unknowingly so gifted.

Writing is a constructive means of self analysis for it forces you and sometimes others to face what you really think.

Today, the sun is shining and the skies seem peaceful. Is it the calm before the storm?

Time is running. In the time that is left, I must find a way to make myself a better person—a better doctor.

J. A. W.

HOT FLASHES
from SCIENCE NEWS LETTERS

With steak priced out of reach it is interesting to learn that the Japanese have found that grasshoppers are even more nutritions than fish. Some Americans used to eat them. According to an American Natualist, Wilfred S. Bronson they taste like lobster.

Dr. C. G. King of the Nutrition Foundation of New York warns that neither child nor adult "will automatically choose the foods he needs from taste or appetite". Especially is this true with regard to essential salts.

One of the brightest items from the lethal front lines in Korea is the improved medical service supplied to our troops whose anatomy is not as imperious as their courage The Army Medical Service, having learned the lessons of World War II, now provides four aid men instead of two to care for the wounded with morphine, splints and litters; also mobile surgical hospitals make possible major operations when they are most needed. New drugs are available: antimalaria choroquine (one dose per week v. s. atabrine); Iramamine v. s. incapacitating sea-sickness; chloromycetin v. s. scrubtyphus.

Vitamin B 12 works another wonder—prevents anaphylactic shock, even in very small doses.

Give a glass of milk with each dose of aureomycin to minimize vomiting without inhibiting absorption, is the advice of Drs. L. G. Bartholomew and D. R. Michols of the Mayo Clinic.

ATTENTION

(Continued From Page 7)

ability and the desire. They have felt however, that until such time as men have proven that they will be consistently interested in the publication, they do not feel that they should relinquish their interest in a local effort which has received a considerable amount of favorable comment from outside Springfield while perhaps has only been passively accepted in the local area.

Please be sure to fill out the enclosed postal card. Certainly Hampden County is as interested in medical legislation post-graduate education, hospital standardization and working facilities for physicians as anybody else.